

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIEP-03 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 SWF-02 FRB-03 XMB-07

IO-14 DRC-01 /197 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3964

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12441

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN US

SUBJECT: SENATOR PERCY'S SEPTEMBER 14 PRESS COMMENTS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY FROM CALCUTTA
SEPT 17 REPEATED:

QUOTE

CALCUTTA 1941

1. SENATOR PERCY'S HURRIED COMMENTS TO THE DUM DUM AIRPORT
PRESS GOT FAIRLY ACCURATE PLAY IN THE SEPT. 15 MORNING
EDITIONS. THE FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS:

2. STATESMAN, "INDO-US TIES WILL NOT DETERIORATE: PERCY",
QUOTE "'WHEN I GO BACK I WILL SEE THAT INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS
DO NOT DETERIORATE', SAID THE US SENATOR, MR. CHARLES
PERCY, AT CALCUTTA AIRPORT ON SATURDAY. THE REPUBLICAN
SENATOR WAS ON HIS WAY TO DELHI FROM BHUTAN.

"WHEN HIS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER,
MRS. INDIRA GANDHI'S REPORTED FEARS ABOUT THE US POLICY
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TOWARDS INDIA, HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR

CONCERN. MR. PERCY SAID THAT HE WAS STUDYING THE REPORTS ON CHILE. WHEN, ON THE BASIS OF MR. MOYNIHAN'S NOTE TO DR. HENRY KISSINGER, HE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN INDIA, THE SENATOR SAID: 'WHEN I GO BACK I WILL SEE THE NOTE AND STUDY MORE ON INDIA. I WILL SEE IF THERE IS ANY REAL BASIS'.

"ASKED TO COMMENT ON PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER, MR. BHUTTO'S REPORTED REQUEST TO THE USA FOR ARMS AID, THE SENATOR PERCY SAID 'I AM NOT AWARE OF IT. THE US COMMITTEE HAS NOT SANCTIONED RESUMPTION OF SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN'. HE, HOWEVER, HINTED THAT NOTHING WOULD BE DONE TO INCREASE TENSION OR TO CREATE IMBALANCES IN THE SUB-CONTINENT.

"THE SENATOR SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE BY INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE SUPER POWERS.

"HE SAID THAT DURING HIS STAY IN BHUTAN, THE KING HAD EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION OF INDIA FOR ITS ASSISTANCE. MR. PERCY SAID THAT THE KING HAD ALSO DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE FOR BHUTAN BY THE WORLD BANK.

"THE SENATOR STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN COLLECTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOOD PROBLEM IN INDIA FROM US OFFICIALS IN THIS COUNTRY." UNQUOTE.

3. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, "INDO-US TIES NOT TO DETERIORATE - PERCY". QUOTE "SENATOR CHARLES PERCY OF US ASSURED INDIA THAT THE INDO-AMERICAN RELATION WOULD NOT DETERIORATE IN THE FUTURE.

"MR. PERCY WHO WAS SPEAKING TO THE REPORTERS AT CALCUTTA AIRPORT ON SATURDAY SAID THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF 'GENUINE FEAR AND WORST SUSPICIONS' ABOUT THE US POLICY TOWARDS INDIA.

"HE SAID THAT AT THE PRESENT MOMENT THERE WAS NO GENUINE FEAR OF THE PRESENT INDIAN GOVERNMENT BEING OVERTHROWN BY CIA.

"HE SAID HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESENT FOOD SITUATION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COUNTRY.

"SENATOR PERCY FELT THAT THE GENUINE PEACE EFFORT BY INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH WOULD CREATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE SUB-CONTINENT.

"WHEN ASKED WHETHER US HAD ANY INTENTION OF HELPING PAKISTAN WITH MORE AMS SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT THERE WAS NO PROVISION

OF ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN IN THE PRESENT AS ALSO IN THE NEXT AMERICAN BUDGET. BUT IF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF ARMS AID GENUINELY FELT IT NECESSARY TO KERP PAKISTAN WITH ARMS AID THEN ONLY PAKISTAN WOULD BE SUPPLIED WITH ARMS." UNQUOTE.

4. BENGALI-LANGUAGE JUGANTAR CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE STORY SIMILAR TO ITS SISTER PAPER'S, AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, UNDER THE CAPTION, "INDIA HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM AMERICA - SENATOR PERCY". QUOTE "US SENATOR CHARLES PERCY TODAY (SEPT. 14) ASSURED INDIA THAT AMERICA WOULD NOT ALLOW INDO-AMERICAN RELATION TO DETERIORATE IN ANY WAY. SENATOR PERCY IS A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE US FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. IT IS HIS FIRM BELIEF THAT CIA WILL NOT DO SUCH THING AS WILL ENDANGER MRS. GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT.

"ON HIS WAY BACK TO DELHI FROM BHUTAN, SENATOR PERCY MET THE REPORTERS AT DUM DUM AIRPORT. ON BEING ASKED TO COMMENT ON US AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S WARNING TO THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER ABOUT AMERICA'S POLICY TOWARDS INDIA, SENATOR PERCY SAID: 'I AM STUDYING THE MATTER. BUT I CAN ASSURE THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF GENUINE FEAR. I AM ALSO WATCHING THE ISSUE OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE. WHEN I GO BACK TO AMERICA, I SHALL DISCUSS THE LATEST POSITION OF US POLICY TOWARDS INDIA AND SEE WHETHER THERE IS ANY BASIS OF THE PUBLISHED REPORT ON MOYNIHAN.'

"HE SAID THAT STABLE PEACE IN THE INDIAN CONTINENT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE WHOLE OF ASIA AND THAT INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH THEMSELVES SHOULD SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

"ABOUT HIS TRIP TO BHUTAN, SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED BHUTAN'S DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS WITH THE KING DURING HIS 10-DAY VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY. HE SAID THE KING HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPRESSED SATISFACTION FOR INDIA'S ECONOMIC AID TO BHUTAN.

"IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER AMERICA SENT FRESH ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN, SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT HE HAD NO SUCH REPORT AS YET. AS FAR AS HE KNEW THERE WOULD BE NO PROVISION FOR ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN IN THE CURRENT BUDGET.

"MR. PERCY IS ALSO INTERESTED IN INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEMS. HE TALKED ELABORATELY ABOUT IT WITH THE UNION FOOD MINISTRY.

"HE WAS RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT BY MR. PURNENDU GHOSE, MR. ABDUS SHO VAN CHOUDHURY AND THE AMERICAN CONSUL, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF WEST BENGAL, BANGLADESH AND THE USA RESPECTIVELY." UNQUOTE.

5. BENGALI-LANGUAGE ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, PAGE 5, "NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN", QUOTE "US SENATOR CHARLES PERCY SAID ON SATURDAY EVENING THAT INDIA NEED NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY. THE SENATOR, WHO WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO DELHI AFTER HIS BHUTAN VISIT, SAID AT THE AIRPORT THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD NOT PURSUE ANY POLICY THAT MIGHT CAUSE DETERIORATION OF INDO-US RELATIONS. WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CIA'S ROLE IN CHILE, INDIA NEED NOT BE ALARMED ABOUT THAT. SENATOR PERCY MADE THIS COMMENT WHILE REFERRING TO THE NOTE THE US AMBASSADOR IN INDIA, DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN HAD RECENTLY SENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. THE SECRET NOTE REPORTED PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI'S APPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE US POLICY. THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTE WAS FIRST DISCLOSED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.

"ASKED TO COMMENT ON PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO'S REQUEST TO THE US FOR ARMS AID, PERCY SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL NOT PROVIDE ARMS TO INDIA OR PAKKISTAN NOW. HE SAID THAT THE KING OF BHUTAN HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM HIS DEEP APPRECIATION OF INDIA'S ASSISTANCE." UNQUOTE
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